Updating of Industrial Relations Laws

767. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that different interests, including the employees, foreign investors have been feeling concerned about the delay in updating the industrial relations laws;

(b) whether a new Industrial Relations policy has been evolved and a new draft Industrial Relations Legislation has been on the anvil;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the legislation and by when it is likely to be brought before Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) On the basis of wide-ranging discussions held in the past in different forums including the Conference of State Labour Ministers and the Indian Labour Conference, proposals to amend two main enactments regulating industrial relations *viz.,* the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of Government.

Streamlining of existing Labour Policy

768. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether government propose to streamline the existing labour policy;

(b) if so, the details of the changes Government propose to make in the existing labour policy;

(c) whether any discussion with the representatives of industries and trade unions have been held before making any changes in the labour policy; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The process of streamlining the Labour Policy is in the nature of a continuous process. This exercise is undertaken by Government with close cooperation of the representatives of the employers and the workers and through tripartite discussion. On the basis of wide ranging discussions held in the past in different forums including the Conference of State Labour Ministers and the Indian Labour Conference, amendments to some of the labour legislations are under consideration of Government with the objective of enhancing productivity, creating more employment opportunities, achieving speedier dispute resolution and securing harmonious industrial relations.

PF dues from Public Sector Undertakings

769. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ascertained the exact dues of Provident Fund accounts from various public sector undertakings of the Central Government located in different places in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated action against various managements of those units without taking into consideration the fact that these accounts have come in arrears due to curtailment of financial support and assistance of centre,

(c) whether it is also a fact that the provident fund authorities have not initiated discussions with individual units for making payments of arrears in easy instalment without affecting their working capital operations:

(d) whether any concrete actios would now be taken to resolve these issues without taking recourse to the penal laws; and

(e) if so, what are the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary recovery action has been initiated because the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 does not treat a private or public sector establishment